In 1991, a clear basement concrete sealant was likely a **solvent-based acrylic film-forming sealer**, a **sodium or potassium silicate liquid densifier**, or an early **water-based silane/siloxane penetrating repellent**. Topical acrylics gave a slight sheen, while silicates and siloxanes soaked in invisibly to stop dusting or moisture wicking. Deco Sealers +5

Common 1990s Clear Sealer Categories

- **Solvent-Based Acrylics**
  - Left a thin, plastic-like protective film on the surface.
  - Darkened the concrete slightly or gave a "wet look" or low-gloss finish.
  - Prone to trapping moisture in below-grade basement floors if hydrostatic pressure was present. YouTube · FoundationArmor
- **Silicate-Based Densifiers (Sodium/Potassium Silicate)**
  - Soaked deep into the concrete pores.
  - Chemically reacted with free lime to turn into a solid crystalline structure, hardening the matrix and stopping dust.
  - Left no surface shine or film behind. YouTube · FoundationAr... +1
- **Silane / Siloxane Penetrating Sealers**
  - Early silicone-based hydrophobic formulas.
  - Created a water-repellent barrier inside the pores without changing the natural look or texture of the wall or floor. YouTube · FoundationAr... +1
- **Early Water-Based Reactive Formulations**
  - Specialty eco-friendly reactive sealers (such as early versions launched around 1991) began appearing as low-odor alternatives to traditional heavy solvent systems. Deco Sealers +1